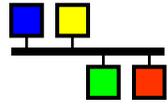


EPICS

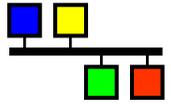


EPICS Licensing

BESSY, May 2002

Andrew Johnson

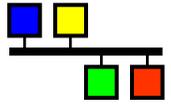
EPICS



Overview

- ◆ Old License Agreement
- ◆ Replacing the Old License
- ◆ New EPICS Base License
- ◆ Current Status of Base
- ◆ EPICS Open License
- ◆ Other Licenses
- ◆ Copyleft Licenses

EPICS

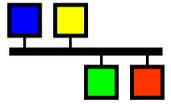


Old License Agreement



- ◆ EPICS was provided for “research, development, evaluation and demonstration purposes only”
- ◆ No royalties were charged because of “the collaborative nature” of the agreement
- ◆ EPICS was “loaned” to other collaborators, and must be returned or destroyed on termination of the agreement.
- ◆ All enhancements must be made available to LANL for royalty-free distribution to other EPICS users
- ◆ Licensees are not allowed to distribute EPICS to other sites without further written permission

EPICS

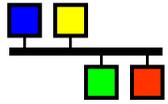


Replacing the Old License



- ◆ Commercial licenses for EPICS ran out in 1998/99
- ◆ Several false starts have occurred since then to try to make EPICS available under an Open Source license
- ◆ The last attempt revealed that EPICS has been given an Export Control Classification Number EAR99
- ◆ Until/unless that is removed, EPICS Base cannot be released using a true Open Source license
 - ◆ Export regulations require ANL to ensure that no recipients are on the US government's lists of Denied Persons or Entities
- ◆ Any license used must be acceptable to DoE
- ◆ Getting the EAR99 classification removed could take some time, and there is no guarantee it will be allowed

EPICS

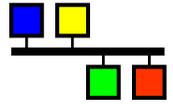


EPICS Base License



- ◆ ANL Legal department developed a new license for EPICS Base that meets both DoE and EAR99 needs:
 - ◆ Permits copying and modification with an organization
 - ◆ Allows distribution of modified copies outside of the licensee's organization, but *only to other (verified) licensees*
 - ◆ Verification involves checking the web-published list of licensees, contacting APS only if the destination site is not publicly listed
 - ◆ Lists the US Government's rights to use the software
 - ◆ Contains warranty disclaimer and liability limitation clauses

EPICS

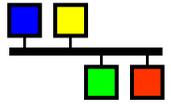


Current Status



- ◆ To change the EPICS Base license, ANL needs permission to redistribute all code that was written elsewhere
- ◆ A signed 'Grant of License' has been requested from all sites that contributed code to EPICS Base
- ◆ As of 17th May 2002, one 'Grant of License' is awaited, all other contributors have returned theirs (thank-you!)
- ◆ R3.13.7 will be released using the new license once the last 'Grant of License' has been received
- ◆ R3.14.0beta2 will use the new license, when it's ready...

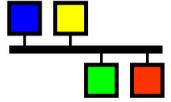
EPICS



EPICS Open License

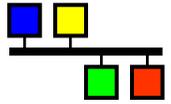


- ◆ The EPICS Open License was derived from the Base License, with the EAR99 restrictions removed:
 - ◆ Permits modifications and redistribution of the software
 - ◆ Requires the copyright notice and license agreement be retained
 - ◆ Requires any modifications made to be marked as such
 - ◆ Contains disclaimers that make it acceptable to DoE
- ◆ APS is working to convert unbundled support modules and extensions to use the new EPICS open license
- ◆ We can only do this for code written at Argonne
- ◆ Other sites: talk to your management about licensing your locally-produced code, preferably as Open Source



Other Possible Licenses

- ◆ There are many Open Source licenses available
<http://www.opensource.org/licenses/>
- ◆ Don't write your own license if you can avoid it
 - ◆ Your code can only be combined with someone else's if the two licenses are legally compatible – GPL+NPL=Illegal
 - ◆ The legal compatibility of existing Open Source licenses is reasonably well known, but new licenses complicate matters
- ◆ DoE may not accept some Open Source licenses
- ◆ Choose your license carefully (if you have any influence)



Copyleft Licenses

- ◆ The GNU LGPL is the best license for advocates of the principles of Free Software who work with EPICS
- ◆ The GNU GPL is incompatible with the Base License
 - ◆ An executable or library file containing both GPL code and the Channel Access library cannot be distributed to anyone, and it may be illegal to create such an executable in the first place
 - ◆ If you insist on using the GPL, include a statement explicitly permitting your code to be linked with EPICS Base
 - ◆ You probably can't include or link to any other GPL code if you add that exception, unless it already has the same exception